

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A reclining chair comprising:
  - a chair frame assembly including a pair of side frame members, a front cross member secured to a front portion of said side frame members and a rear cross rail secured to a rear portion of said side frame members;
  - an operator having a drive shaft extending therefrom;
  - an actuation mechanism having a drive rod supported for rotation between said side frame members;
  - a leg rest assembly including a pantograph linkage coupled to the drive rod; and
  - a clutch mechanism operably coupled between said drive shaft and said drive rod, said clutch mechanism operable in a first direction to couple said drive rod and said drive shaft for positioning said leg rest assembly from a retracted position towards an extended position and operable in a second direction to uncouple said drive rod and said drive shaft.
2. The reclining chair of claim 1, wherein said clutch mechanism comprises a drive member coupled to said drive shaft for rotation therewith and a follower member coupled to said drive rod for rotation therewith, said drive member engaging said follower member when said drive shaft is rotated in a first direction for rotating said drive rod in a first direction positioning said leg rest assembly from a retracted position towards an extended position.

3. The reclining chair of claim 2, wherein said drive member comprises a channel, said follower member being received in said channel and engaging said drive member when said drive shaft is rotated in said first direction.

4. The reclining chair of claim 1 further comprising a return spring connected between said chair frame and said actuation mechanism to bias said drive rod for rotation in a second direction.

5. The reclining chair of claim 4 further comprising a link rotatably coupled to said drive rod, said return spring being connected between said chair frame and said link.

6. The reclining chair of claim 5 wherein said link forms a part of said leg rest assembly.

7. The reclining chair of claim 1, wherein said operator is manually powered.

8. The reclining chair of claim 1, wherein said operator comprises a powered actuator.

9. The reclining chair of claim 8, wherein the powered actuator comprises an electric motor mounted outside said chair frame assembly.

10. A leg rest assembly positionable between a retracted position and an extended position, said leg rest assembly comprising:

a drive shaft with a drive member rotatably coupled thereto;

an actuation mechanism including a drive rod with a follower member rotatably coupled thereto;

a pantograph linkage interconnecting a leg rest panel and the drive rod for coordinated articulated movement between a retracted position and an extended position, said pantograph linkage supported from said actuation mechanism, said drive member engaging said follower member when said actuation mechanism is rotated in a first direction for positioning said leg rest panel from said retracted position to said extended position; and

a return spring mechanism biasing said pantograph linkage towards said retracted position.

11. The leg rest assembly of claim 10 wherein said actuation mechanism further comprises a support shaft, and a swing link coupled to said pantograph linkage and journaledly supported from said support shaft for rotation thereabout.

12. The leg rest assembly of claim 12 wherein said drive member is operable to disengage said follower member when said drive shaft is rotated in second direction.

13. The leg rest assembly of claim 10 further comprising an operator coupled to said drive shaft to rotate said drive member.

14. The leg rest assembly of claim 13 wherein said operator comprises an electric motor.

15. The leg rest assembly of claim 10 wherein said return spring mechanism comprises:

a link coupled to the drive rod for rotation therewith; and

a spring operably coupled to the link to bias the drive rod in the second direction.

16. The leg rest assembly of claim 10 wherein the drive member comprises a channel, the follower member being received in the channel and engaging the drive member when the drive shaft is rotated in the first direction.

17. A reclining chair comprising:

a chair frame assembly including a pair of side frame members, a front cross member secured to a front portion of said side frame members and a rear cross rail secured to a rear portion of said side frame members;

a support shaft extending between said side frame members and secured to said front cross member assembly;

a drive rod extending between said side frame members having a follower member rotatably coupled thereto;

an operator having a drive shaft with a drive member rotatably coupled thereto;

a leg rest assembly including a drive link coupled to said drive rod for rotation therewith, a swing link journally supported from said support shaft for rotation thereabout, and a pantograph linkage operably coupled to said swing link and said drive link;

said drive member engaging said follower member when said drive shaft is rotated in a first direction for positioning said leg rest assembly from a retracted position towards an extended position;

a return spring mechanism biasing said pantograph linkage towards said retracted position; and

wherein said drive member is operable to disengage said follower member when said drive shaft is rotated in a second direction.

18. The reclining chair of claim 17 wherein the operator comprises a powered actuator.

19. The reclining chair of claim 18 wherein the powered actuator comprises a drive motor is mounted on a side of the chair frame assembly laterally outboard of one of said pair of side frame members.